

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest Inventory Number: SM-810
Address: 23200 Clark's Rest Lane Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Leonardtown Zip Code: 20650 County: Saint Mary's
USGS Quadrangle(s): Leonardtown
Property Owner: Calvert, LLC Tax Account ID Number: 03-005062
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 514 Tax Map Number: 127
Project: MD 5: MD 243 to MD 245 Agency: SHA
Agency Prepared By: EHT Traceries, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Saleh Van Erem Date Prepared: 10/31/2007

Documentation is presented in: _____

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no

Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest is sited on a 177.86-acre parcel of land northeast of Point Lookout Road (MD 5) in Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, Maryland. The property is located northwest of the central business district of Leonardtown. The sloping lot features overgrown trees and shrubs. The tenant house sits at the bottom of a hill below where the main dwelling on a plantation known as Clark's Rest was located. (1) The circa 1840 two-story wood-frame dwelling at Clark's Rest/Clark's Farm (SM-237) and other associated outbuildings have burned down and collapsed. (2) Tenant House #2 is located to the east. A third tenant house, notated in the 2000 MIHP form as being inaccessible for survey, was not located and is presumably no longer extant.

Set on a pier foundation of concrete blocks, the one-story, three-bay dwelling was constructed circa 1920 as a tenant house. The wood-frame structure was originally clad in weatherboard siding and is now covered in asbestos shingles. (3) An interior chimney of brick construction pierces the roof. A side-gabled roof covered in standing-seam metal caps the structure. A front-gabled dormer clad in asbestos shingles is centrally located on the front slope of the roof. A two-light casement window is located in the dormer. The single-leaf door and windows have been covered in plywood. One opening visible on the side (northwest) elevation appears to have a 6/6 window. A partial address hangs above the entry door reading, "510." A shed-roofed addition on the northeast (rear) elevation is clad in asbestos shingles and is supported on a concrete pier foundation. The majority of this rear addition has

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

Jim Kullman
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

2/7/08

Date

2/7/08

Date

200700079

collapsed. Fenestration is not visible on the collapsed portion of the dwelling.

The rural town of Leonardtown is located in southern St. Mary's County, Maryland, and is situated on the northern banks of Breton Bay, a tributary of the Potomac River. Point Lookout Road (MD 5), a north-south highway, connects Washington, D.C. and southern Maryland. The road is approximately 75 miles long and runs from Suitland, Maryland, at the District of Columbia/Maryland state line to Point Lookout in southeastern St. Mary's County. The road is known by various names, including Branch Avenue, Leonardtown Road, and Point Lookout Road.

The earliest extant buildings in the Leonardtown area date to the mid-eighteenth century, with the majority of buildings dating from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. These buildings reflect the agricultural, governmental, and commercial history of the area and illustrate a variety of styles, including Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and a variety of vernacular interpretations of popular styles.

Like much of southern Maryland, tobacco was the primary crop in the area and farming remained central to Leonardtown's economy from its establishment through the early twentieth century.(4) Beginning in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, increasing competition from farms located in the West and the loss of slave labor resulted in many Leonardtown farmers turning to the water for additional income. Many farmers became watermen, fishing, crabbing, and gathering oysters to supplement their income.(5) Others attempted to grow wheat, peaches, corn, fruit, and other vegetables in order to diversify their crops.(6) Despite increasing pressure, tobacco remained the primary crop and source of income for most in the community. Medium-sized farms, such as Clark's Rest, appear to have continued farming tobacco in the twentieth century, based on the number of outbuildings present in 2000 and the construction of three tenant houses on the property in the early part of the twentieth century.

Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest was constructed circa 1920 to house tenant farmers who worked the plantation at Clark's Rest (SM-237). However, this property is not individually associated with the events and trends that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, thus disqualifying it for eligibility under Criterion A. The property is not associated with any person or group of persons of outstanding importance to the community, state, or nation. Therefore, the Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest is not eligible under Criterion B. This dwelling does not embody distinctive characteristics of early-twentieth-century domestic architecture nor does it represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value, rather it is a typical example of a vernacular dwelling common to St. Mary's County. Further, its integrity has been compromised by recladding, a rear addition, and its current condition. It is thus disqualified for eligibility under Criterion C. Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest was not evaluated under Criterion D. Therefore, it has been recommended that the Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

- 1) Kirk E. Ranzetta, "Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest," (SM-810) Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form (2000), 8:1.
- 2) Kirk E. Ranzetta, "Leonardtown Survey District," (SM-592) Maryland Historical Trust, State Historic sites Inventory Form (1997), 7:1.
- 3) Ranzetta, "Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest," 8:1.
- 4) 1850 U.S. Federal Census (Slave Schedule), Election Districts 1-5, St. Mary's County, Maryland; 1850 U.S. Federal Census (Slave Schedule), Election Districts 1-5, St. Mary's County, Maryland.
- 5) Aleck Loker, A Most Convenient Place: Leonardtown, Maryland, 1650-1950 (Leonardtown, MD: The Commissioners of Leonardtown and Solitude Press, 2001) 76-80.
- 6) Ranzetta, "Leonardtown Survey District," 8:12.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

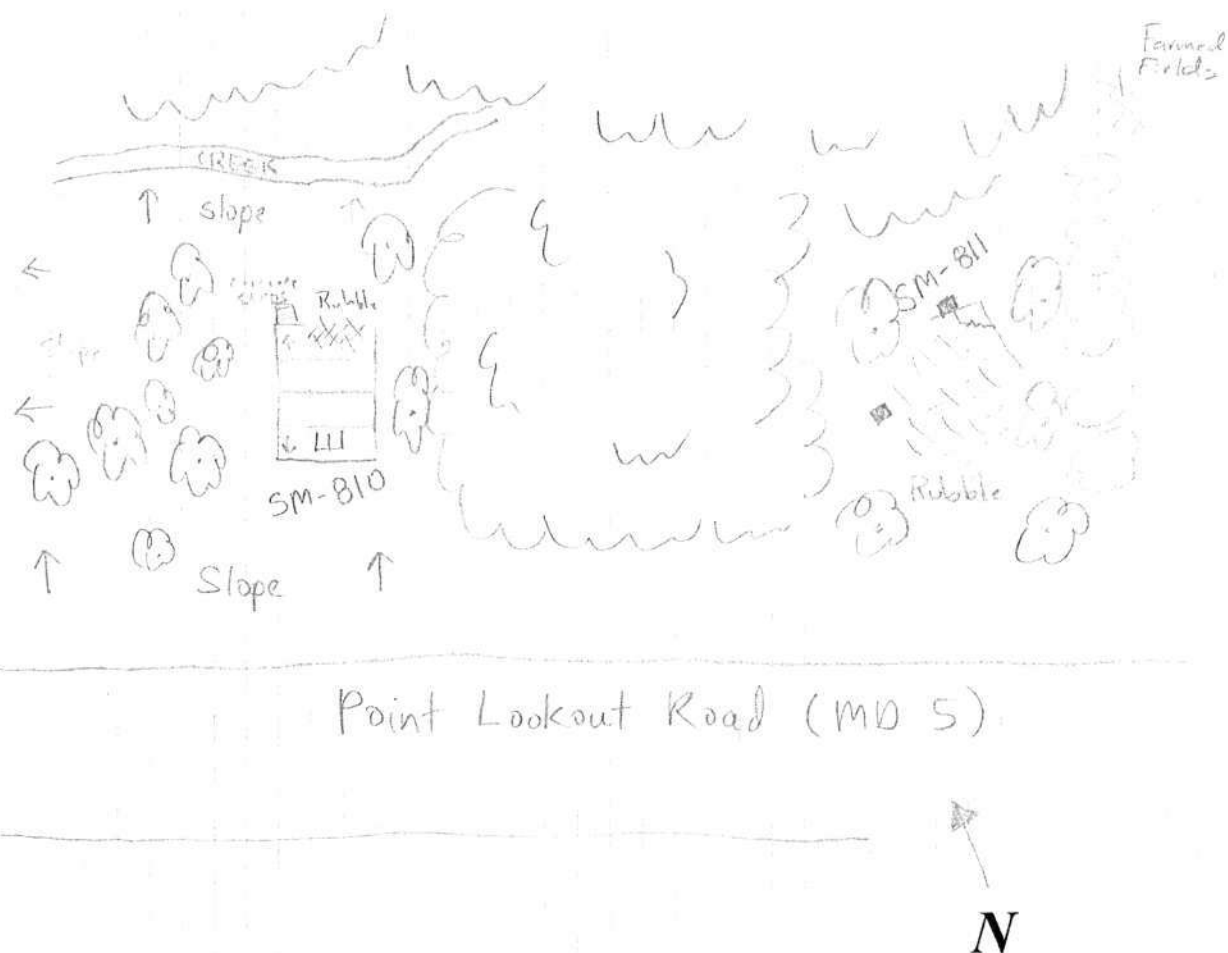
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

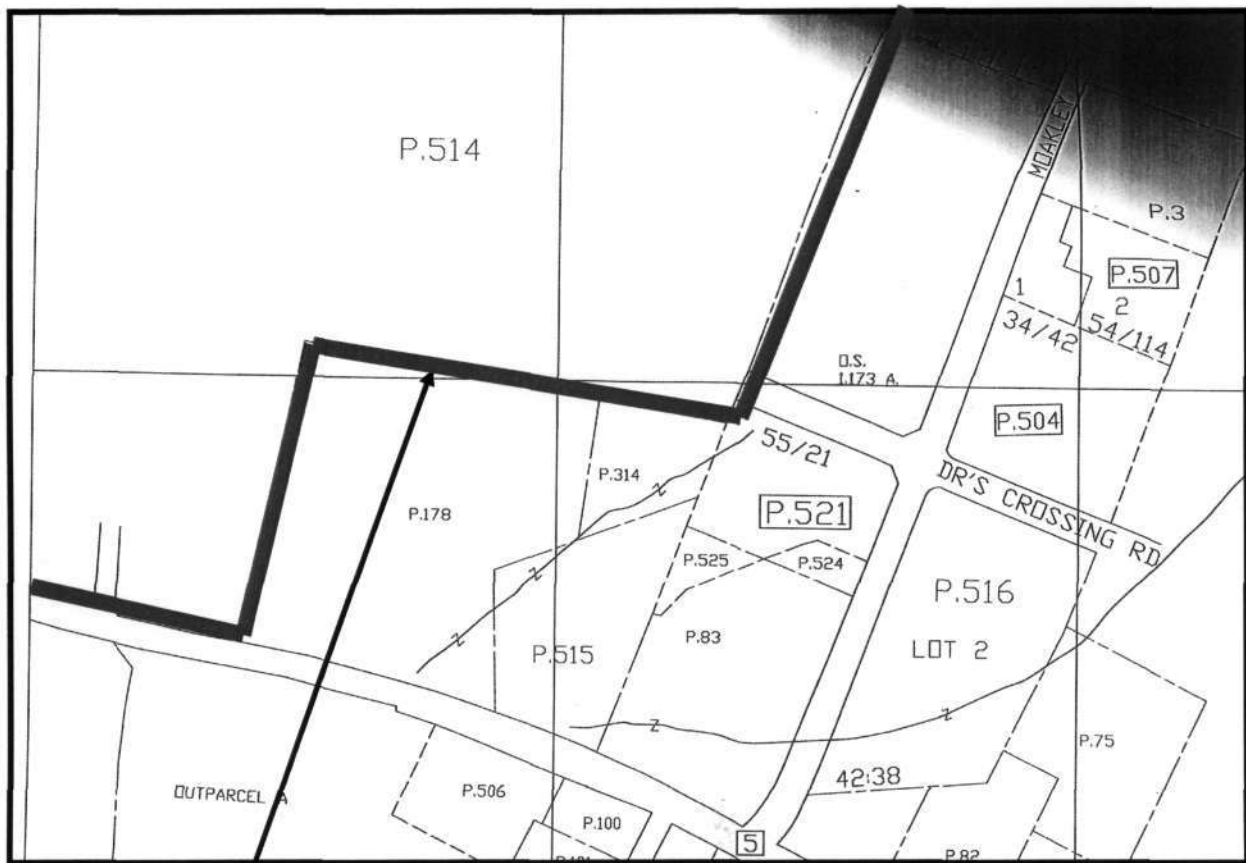
Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP



ID#: SM-810 & SM-811 Name: Tenant House #1 & #2 at Clark's Rest
Address: 23200 Clark's Rest Lane
Town/Town Vicinity: Leonardtown County: St. Mary's



Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest (SM-810), 23200 Clark's Rest Lane
Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, MD
Tax Parcel Map 127, Parcel 514
Prepared by EHT Traceries, Inc., 2007





SM-810

Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest

23200 Clark's Rest Lane

Saint Mary's County, Maryland

EHT Traceries, Inc.

October 2007

MO SHPO

Facade, looking northeast

1 of 2



SM-810

Tenant House #2 at Clark's Rest

23200 Clark's Rest Lane

Saint Mary's County, Maryland

EHT Traceries, Inc.

October 2007

MO SHPO

Rear elevation, looking south

#2 of 2

Capsule Summary

SM-810

Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest

Leonardtown vicinity

Private

circa 1920

In the aftermath of the Civil War, many African Americans in St. Mary's County fled to northern regions to escape the oppressive bonds of slavery, distance themselves from their former masters, and seek better paying jobs. Other remained behind.

Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest as well as SM-811 typify the types of dwellings that African Americans occupied in the early twentieth century. Interestingly the house's location also typifies the proxemics of post-Civil War domestic hierarchies. Sitting at the bottom of the hill below the main dwelling, this and two other house's occupied the eastern margins of the impressive plantation called Clark's Rest. Oral history, documentary research, and photography should be completed for this as well as SM-811 in order to determine the exact relationship of these houses, the families that occupied them, and how they functioned in the larger scheme of the day-to-day operations of the main farm.

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-810

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest is situated on the north side of Maryland Route 5 approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile west of the intersection of Maryland Route 5 and Hollywood Leonardtown Road in Leonardtown, Maryland. Oriented on a south/north axis, the modest tenant house is positioned closely to the main road and is currently vacant. Lying on the western margins of the impressive 178 acre farm called Clark's Rest, the area immediately around the house is characterized by overgrown shrubbery. The property is bounded by a wooded tract to the west, agricultural parcels to the north, a residential lot to the east, and by the road to the south.

Tenant house #1 near Clark's Rest, built circa 1920, is a modest one-and-a-half story, three bay cottage with a gable roof. A single brick chimney flue protrudes from the center of the roof. The exterior is clad with asbestos shingles while the roof is topped with raised-seam metal.

The primary or south elevation is pierced on the first floor by a central door flanked by a window on either side. Due to the dilapidated state of the house all of the openings have been boarded over precluding observations about the sash type. All of these bays are shaded by a porch supported by plain square posts. The attic story of the cottage is pierced by a gable dormer replete with two window openings that have been busted out.

No other elevations were investigated.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-810

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

In the aftermath of the Civil War, many African Americans in St. Mary's County fled to northern regions to escape the oppressive bonds of slavery, distance themselves from their former masters, and seek better paying jobs. Others remained behind. Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest as well as SM-811 typify the types of dwellings that African Americans occupied in the early twentieth century. Interestingly, the circa 1920 house's location also typifies the proxemics of post-Civil War domestic hierarchies. Sitting at the bottom of the hill below the main dwelling, this and two other house's occupied the eastern margins of the impressive plantation called Clark's Rest. Oral history, documentary research, and photography should be completed for this as well as SM-811 in order to determine the exact relationship of these houses, the families that occupied them, and how they functioned in the larger scheme of the day-to-day operations of the main farm.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-810

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1 acre
Acreage of historical setting 178 acres
Quadrangle name Leonardtown

Quadrangle scale: 1:24 000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by a wooded tract to the west, agricultural parcels to the north, a residential lot to the east, and by the road to the south. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber EWA 1153, Folio 327.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



SM-810
Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest
Leonardtown
St. Mary's County
Leonardtown Quad



SM-810

Tenant House #1 at Clark's Rest

St Mary's County

Kirk Ranretta

Nov/99

MD SHPO

Looking N

1 of 1